

GANG ACTIVITY ASSESSMENT (p. 1 of 2)

Directions: Administer assessment to school staff. Write the point value for each Yes answer, and then total them.

	YES	NO
1. Do you have graffiti on or near your campus? (5 points) Graffiti is one of the first warning signs of gang activity. If you have graffiti in your community or on your campus, you probably have gang activity.	_____	_____
2. Do you have crossed-out graffiti on or near your campus? (10 points) At an elementary school in Los Angeles, five different graffiti monikers were present on the schoolhouse door. Each of the previous ones had been crossed out. The principal apologized for the graffiti, stating that the painters had not been to the campus since the previous Friday; this was only Monday. Crossed-out graffiti indicates that more than one gang is in the community, and the likelihood of gang warfare is higher.	_____	_____
3. Do your students wear colors, jewelry, or clothing, flash hand signals, or display other behaviors that may be gang-related? (10 points) Dress styles, hand signs, jewelry, and other identifying marks reinforce members' affiliation with a particular gang. More and more school districts are establishing dress codes that prohibit the wearing of gang symbols, gang colors, or disruptive dress styles. Parents should be particularly aware of gang styles and colors and make certain their children do not wear them. It is all too easy to be mistaken for a gang member and to end up as another fatal statistic.	_____	_____
4. Are drugs available at or near your school? (5 points) Drugs and gangs are inseparably related. Some gangs are developing tremendous expertise in drug trafficking and sales. They have their own experts in money laundering, marketing, distribution, recruiting, and law. A gang will move into a community and provide the rent, utilities, phone, and a starter kit of supplies to help members get the drug-trafficking operation going. Gangs are on the move and looking for new opportunities, perhaps in your community.	_____	_____
5. Has there been a significant increase in the number of physical confrontations/stare-downs within the past 12 months in or near your school? (5 points) Fights symbolize increasing conflict on many campuses. School violence and intimidation encourage gang formation and gang-related activity. Increasing violence may signal a growing tendency toward gang violence. It is important to clearly communicate, consistently enforce, and fairly apply reasonable behavior standards.	_____	_____
6. Are weapons increasingly present in your community? (10 points) Weapons are the tools of the trade for gangs. Wherever gangs are found, weapons will follow. Unfortunately, when a weapon is used, an irreversible consequence and a chain reaction often result. A fistfight is one thing, but a gunfight can have a tragic outcome—and the violence usually only escalates.	_____	_____
7. Do your students use beepers, pagers, or cell phones? (10 points) The trend is for schools increasingly to allow students to use such devices. Most students are not doctors or lawyers and do not need beepers. Except in rare cases, beepers and pagers are inappropriate and unnecessary for students.	_____	_____
8. Has there been a drive-by shooting at or near your school? (15 points) Drive-by shootings reflect more advanced gang-related problems. It is possible to have a gang presence in your community without drive-by shootings. Most shootings are the result of competition between rival gangs for drug turf or territorial control of a specific area. Once gang rivalry begins, it often escalates to greater levels of violence. If you have had a drive-by shooting on or near your campus, conditions are grave and gang activity in your community has escalated to its most serious state.	_____	_____

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YES NO

9. Have you had a “show-by” display of weapons at or near your school? (10 points)

Before you have a drive-by shooting, a “show-by”—a flashing of weapons—will usually occur. About the best course of action when such an incident happens is to duck and look for cover. The head football coach in a suburban Portland, Oregon community told of a recent incident in which a group of “Crips” (a powerful, nationally established group), dressed in blue, came speeding through his school’s field house parking lot. It was near the end of the day. His team was with him when he shouted, “Slow it down, fellas.” They did, only to pull out a semiautomatic weapon and point it at the coach and his team. The coach had the good judgment to hit the deck and order his team to drop for cover. The coach said, “I thought I had bought the farm. Fortunately, they didn’t pull the trigger. In my 20 years of teaching, I have never been afraid until this year.” A North Carolina teacher, a veteran of 18 years, related that her mother had offered to buy out her teaching contract if only she would leave the profession. School violence has motivated some of the nation’s best teachers to pull out.

10. Is your truancy rate increasing? (5 points)

There is a high correlation between truancy and daytime burglary. Excellent examples of truancy prevention and intervention programs are in effect in Houston, Texas; Rohnert Park, California; and Honolulu, Hawaii. Students who are not in school are often terrorizing the community. Cooperation between schools and law enforcement to keep kids in school is important.

11. Are the number of racial incidents occurring in your community or school increasing? (5 points)

A high correlation exists between gang membership and racial conflict. We have often treated new immigrants and people from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds poorly, and thus have encouraged the formation of gangs. Many gangs are formed along racial and ethnic lines for purposes of protection and affiliation. Sometimes friendship and affiliation take a backseat to criminal acts of violence and intimidation. People want to be respected and appreciated. It is important to cultivate multicultural understanding and respect that embraces diversity.

12. Does your community have a history of gangs? (10 points)

Gangs are not a new phenomenon. They have been around for decades—in some cases, for several generations. Youth gangs are even mentioned in the Bible (2 Kings 2:23). If your community has a history of gangs, your children are much more likely to be influenced by them.

13. Is there an increasing presence of informal social groups with unusual names like *Woodland Heights Posse*, *Rip Off a Rule*, *Kappa Phi Nasty*, *18th Street Crew*, or *Females Simply Chillin*? (15 points)

The development of hard-core gang members often begins in groups with innocent and yet revealing names. Children in these groups often become primary recruiting targets for hard-core gang members.

TOTAL

RESULTS

A score of **15 points or less** indicates that the school or community does not have a significant gang problem and there is no need for alarm.

A score of **20–40 points** indicates an emerging gang problem. Gang factors and related incidents should be closely monitored, and a gang prevention plan should be developed.

A score of **45–60 points** indicates the need to immediately establish a comprehensive gang prevention and intervention plan.

A score of **65 points or more** indicates an acute gang problem that merits a total gang prevention, intervention, and suppression program.

Developed by Ronald D. Stephens for Pepperdine University’s National School Safety Center (Goldstein & Huff, 1993).